

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected as being anticipated by van den Branden et al (U.S. 6,011,868) hereinafter Branden. It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over Branden for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite that the claimed apparatus is "for the purpose of facilitating image quality adjustment of one or more of the plurality of pictures". This feature is supported by the originally filed application at page 21, lines 2-7.

Claims 1 and 7 have also been amended to recite "a) the still picture, b) an identification of the picture type of the still picture, and c) a value corresponding to the number of bits of the still picture are displayed simultaneously." This is supported by the originally filed application at page 21, lines 9-14. No new matter has been added.

It is clear from the description of at least page 21, lines 2-7, that a purpose of the present invention is to facilitate the adjustment of an image quality, as a result of being able to recognize and number of bits of a still image.

Branden has not been shown to explicitly teach or disclose that when a moving image is paused, the number of bits for that specific image can be displayed simultaneously with the image.

Pending claims 1 and 7 recite:

while the still picture is being reproduced, adding the video signal ... and the first bit rate video signal ...

This provides the effect that, as claimed:

...a) the still picture, b) an identification of the picture type of the still picture, and c) a value corresponding to the number of bits of the still picture are displayed simultaneously.

Thus, it is clear that a user can view the still image and simultaneously view information relating to that specific image.

An advantage of this feature is that when producing still pictures, the present invention facilitates easy visual association between a specific still picture and relevant data pertaining to that specific still picture. Thus, a user can easily evaluate whether a number of bits of a specific still frame needs to be adjusted. When such adjustment is required, the user can then adjust the image quality of the specific frame by conventional means.

This feature contributes greatly to achieving the purpose of the present invention, that is, facilitating image quality adjustment of one or more pictures of the video signal.

The Official Action asserts that Branden has the ability to display information relating to the bit rate as well as the still or motion picture using a frame by frame basis (col. 14, line 27 - col. 15, line 5). Branden has not been shown to explicitly teach or disclose that when a moving image is paused, the number of bits for that specific image can be displayed simultaneously with the image. With regard to col. 14, lines 65-69, Branden merely discloses a number of bits and frame type of the most recent frames is displayed.

Therefore, it is asserted that with the system of Branden, (i) there is no explicit disclosure of this feature, (ii) there is no explicit disclosure therefore that said visual association can be provided and (iii) the system of Branden is not specifically concerned with providing this function since it is directed to a different purpose.

To emphasize the difference in the purpose to be achieved between the present invention and Branden, claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite the purpose of the present invention.

In contrast to the present invention, the purpose of Branden as described in the abstract and throughout the text of this reference, is to allow a user to monitor a video elementary bitstream, to ensure that certain parameters of the bitstream conform to a standard (i.e., quality analysis). This is clearly different to the present invention.

Since Branden is directed to a different purpose, it is asserted that Branden is not concerned with the solution to the same problems as the present invention, i.e., allowing a user to immediately and easily identify the picture quality of a specific frame while actually viewing the specific frame.

In addition to the above-mentioned ability to display a still picture together with relevant information, claim 1 further recites "while the moving picture is being reproduced, adding the video signal ... and the second bit rate video signal ... so that the moving picture and the average bit rate are displayed simultaneously."

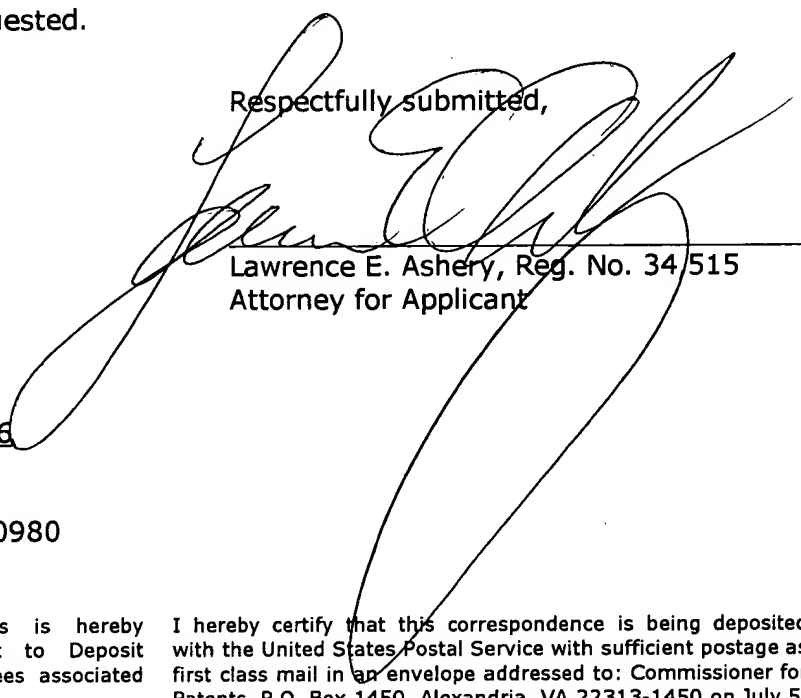
Therefore, if a situation occurs where a sequence of frames has a bit rate which is too high, for example, the user can adjust an image quality accordingly. This is also a highly useful function for contributing to the purpose of the present invention.

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Claims 3-6 and 9-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branden. These claims, however, are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims. In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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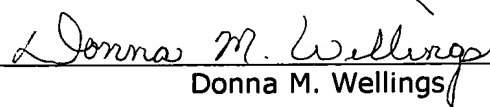
LEA/fp/dmw

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